

## ALCOHOL\_DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS

# No-tolerance drug policy approved in concept

By John Chaffee  
The Patriot Ledger

**DUXBURY** — Selectmen last night adopted a mixed bag of alcohol-related measures, plus the concept of a townwide zero-tolerance substance abuse policy.

Shortly after authorizing local package stores to remain open on six successive Sundays from Nov. 24 to Dec. 29, the selectmen voted to support a hard-line campaign against the illegal use of drugs, including alcohol.

They then modified a year-old policy that required local liquor license holders to carry liability insurance and have all alcoholic beverage servers complete a training program approved by the insurance industry.

The zero-tolerance policy was proposed by Frank LeBart, chairman of Duxbury's alcohol-drug awareness committee and president of the HALT Community Partnership, a 5-year-old program that works to increase drug-abuse awareness and prevention in 11 South Shore towns.

LeBart said zero tolerance would

## Duxbury

mean strict enforcement of existing drug-abuse laws, parent and teenager pledges of compliance with those laws, endorsement and support by more than 50 community organizations, a public information campaign and a vote of support by town meeting.

"A zero-tolerance policy sends a message to drug dealers, drug users and those adults who say it's all right to serve alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs to underage kids," LeBart said.

"Let's set zero tolerance as a Duxbury standard and make Duxbury a model for the state and the nation."

But the selectmen weren't willing to go quite that far.

Selectman Friend Weiler asked if zero tolerance meant a 15-year-old caught smoking pot for the first time would be punished "to the full extent of the law."

LeBart agreed that details of his proposed policy needed to be worked

out, so selectmen voted to adopt it only as a concept.

In voting to allow package stores to open on Sundays during the holiday season, the selectmen also agreed to let them remain open until 10 p.m. on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

In amending their policy on awarding liquor licenses, they agreed to let package store and restaurant owners decide for themselves if they need or can afford liability insurance.

They also agreed to require that only management and bartenders complete an insurance industry-approved alcohol server training program.

In other business, selectmen:

- Voted to change the way the town penalizes those who fail to pay their water bills on time. Rather than charge 14 percent interest as it has been doing, the town will impose a flat \$5 fee for the first 30 to 45 days that a bill is past due. If the bill remains unpaid 45 days after the due date, a \$10 fee will be charged. Seventy-five days after the due date, the town will begin imposing a \$10 fee for each 30-day period. The

change was recommended by former Selectman Patricia Dowd.

- Authorized Town Manager Rocco Longo to have Town Counsel Robert Troy seek a declaratory and court judgment on the town's continued use of the public library building once the new library is completed

and occupied. The building was given to the town for use only as a library.

- Heard Longo report that the new police chief, Lt. Col. Charles Mazzone of the Maryland State Police, has agreed on a five-year contract at \$69,775 for the first year. Mazzone will begin work in Duxbury

early next year, Longo said.

- Watched as Town Clerk Nancy Oates swore in William Harriman as the new fire chief. Longo said Harriman agreed on a five-year contract that will pay him \$62,860 annually retroactive to July 5, when he took over as acting chief.